



CHANGE Matters

December 2009

In this edition

- ICPD at 15: Reaffirming U.S. Commitment to Women and Girls
 - Appropriations Update: Congress Delivers For the World's Women and Families
 - World AIDS Day 2009
 - Prevention Now!: The New Female Condom Now Available
 - Global Health Initiative: Civil Society Weighs In
 - What's New
 - Support CHANGE
-

Dear Friend,

As 2009 comes to a close, we are encouraged by the opportunities and possibilities for advancing sexual and reproductive health and rights in U.S. foreign policy and assistance. Throughout the year, administration officials—from the Department of State to the U.S. Mission at the United Nations—have expressed support for sexual and reproductive health and rights. On Wednesday, President Barack Obama signed an omnibus spending bill that increased funding for global sexual and reproductive health issues by more than \$350 million. We're revitalized and eager—we expect 2010 to be a great year.

We know that our progress could not be possible without the courage of our colleagues who came to the U.S. from Mali, India, Brazil, Dominican Republic, Ethiopia and Botswana to meet with U.S. officials at the White House, State Department and Congress, to share their stories of how some U.S. policies undermine women's health and rights, and to give suggestions for strengthening effectiveness of U.S. foreign aid.

In meetings with PEPFAR and in the White House, our colleague from Botswana stressed the importance of including women living with HIV in the planning and implementation of PEPFAR programs. We are delighted that the new PEPFAR strategy echoes her assessment that people living with HIV should be a critical part of PEPFAR's response, and must be involved in planning and implementation of programs.

CHANGE is grateful to our U.S. NGO partners. Our collective strength was revealed in the new PEPFAR 5-year strategy that includes changes advocated by many of us: expanding integration of HIV/AIDS services with reproductive health services, providing 100 percent of youth in PEPFAR prevention programs with comprehensive and correct HIV/AIDS prevention education, requiring the involvement of women living with HIV in program planning and implementation, addressing the public health needs of persons in the sex sector and other vulnerable populations, advancing the rights of populations that face stigma, and expanding equal access to care.

We are grateful for the support we have received from our friends throughout the year, in the form of time, energy and financial gifts. We hope that as you reflect on the change you want to see in 2010 that you will consider making a [year-end gift to CHANGE](#). We look forward to continuing to work with you. As always,

you are greatly appreciated.

In solidarity,



Serra Sippel, President
Center for Health and Gender Equity

"We will also redouble our efforts to address the needs of women and girls who are disproportionately affected by HIV/AIDS in many parts of the world. Promoting the health of women strengthens families and communities and has positive spillover effects in areas like poverty reduction and education."

--Secretary Hillary Clinton, [remarks in recognition of World AIDS Day](#)
November 30, 2009

ICPD at 15: Reaffirming U.S. Commitment to Women and Girls

This year marks the 15th anniversary of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), a seminal gathering of health, women's rights, and development leaders held in Cairo. The ICPD 20-year Program of Action, endorsed by the United States, recognized that women's empowerment, gender equality, and sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) are critical to achieving sustainable development and eradicating global poverty.

CHANGE was founded at the time of the ICPD to hold the U.S. government accountable to commitments it made in Cairo, and we continue to advocate for sexual and reproductive health and rights within U.S. foreign policy and assistance. "[Change for Her Starts with Us: Sexual and reproductive health and rights are critical to reducing poverty and meeting the Millennium Development Goals](#)," authored by CHANGE's president, Serra Sippel, appears in the December 2009 issue of Monday Developments, the monthly publication of [InterAction](#). The article makes the case for the U.S. to adopt the ICPD framework of sexual and reproductive health and human rights within its foreign policy and programs.

In recognition of ICPD at 15, Rep. Barbara Lee (D-CA) introduced [H. Res. 947](#), a resolution reaffirming U.S. commitment to the principles of the ICPD. CHANGE has been working with Lee's office and our grassroots constituencies to garner additional co-sponsors of the resolution. Please join us in this effort by [sending an email](#) to your member of Congress today.

In furthering this positive momentum around ICPD, [Secretary Clinton will give a speech](#) affirming the goals of the ICPD on Monday, December 21.

Appropriations Update: Congress Delivers for the World's Women and Families

In a victory for women's health, President Barack Obama signed into law on December 16, [H.R. 3288](#), an omnibus spending bill that delivers significant funding increases for U.S. international HIV/AIDS, maternal

health, and family planning and reproductive health programs for Fiscal Year 2010. Increases include:

- Approximately \$5.7 billion for bilateral global HIV/AIDS, an increase of \$200 million from the FY 2009 enacted level
- \$549 million for maternal and child health, an increase of \$54 million over the FY 2009 enacted level
- \$648.5 million for international family planning and reproductive health programs, an increase of more than \$103 million from FY 2009, including a \$55 million contribution to the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

Unfortunately, the bill does not include an amendment passed in July by the Senate Appropriations Committee that would have prevented a future administration from reinstating the harmful [Mexico City Policy](#) ("Global Gag Rule") by executive order. While CHANGE is disappointed by this development, we will continue to work with the administration and Congress to end the political football surrounding the Global Gag Rule.

World AIDS Day 2009

On November 30, the eve of World AIDS Day, CHANGE was in the company of colleagues at a White House event focusing on U.S. domestic and international efforts around HIV/AIDS education, prevention and treatment. In her remarks, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton drew attention to combating discrimination and ensuring that women and girls remain a central focus of U.S. HIV/AIDS policy. The following day Ambassador Eric Goosby released the [five-year strategy](#) for the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) ([see CHANGE's response and analysis](#)), and Rep. Barbara Lee (D-CA) introduced [H.Con.Res.216](#) in support of the goals and ideals of World AIDS Day. This resolution affirms comprehensive HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment and care, human rights for all, especially marginalized groups, and efforts to empower women.

For World AIDS Day, CHANGE joined with [Advocates for Youth](#), [SIECUS](#), the [National Council of Jewish Women](#), the [Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism](#), and the [Unitarian Universalist Association](#), to launch an [online petition to President Barack Obama](#), urging him to ensure that PEPFAR provides comprehensive prevention information and youth-friendly services to young people worldwide. The petition and its more than 1,200 signatures from advocates from around the U.S. will be delivered to the White House in the coming weeks.

Prevention Now!: The New Female Condom Now Available

In March 2009, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) awarded regulatory approval to the [FC2 female condom](#), a second generation female condom manufactured by the [Female Health Company](#). This paved the way for the FC2 to become available in the U.S. and for the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to procure FC2 for global HIV/AIDS and reproductive health programs. After many months, the FC2 female condom is now available for public sector purchase in the U.S. and is being distributed by U.S.-funded programs overseas.

Capitalizing on this exciting development, CHANGE hosted a series of meetings with Sandra Mapemba, condom program coordinator at UNFPA/Malawi, on November 19, in Washington, D.C. to promote awareness of the FC2 to the administration and advocates. Events included a brownbag lunch at USAID that brought together representatives from the Office of HIV/AIDS and the Office of Population and Reproductive Health, in addition to a community event attended by 50 advocates.

CHANGE also convened in early December a [conference call update](#) on the FC2 female condom at home and abroad that was attended by more than 120 service providers, advocates, academics, and donors. Mark Rilling, chief of the Commodities Security and Logistics Division at USAID, gave an update on USAID progress in procurement and shipment of FC2, and officials from the New York City Department of Health shared the results of their successful FC2 programming.

Global Health Initiative: Civil Society Weighs In

In November, CHANGE participated in three consultations with the State Department regarding reproductive health, infectious diseases and a women-centered focus in the Obama administration's Global Health Initiative (GHI). The initiative will address a range of global health concerns and is a critical opportunity to advocate for some of CHANGE's key issues, including comprehensive SRHR and the integration of reproductive health services, including family planning, maternal, newborn and child health, with HIV and AIDS services. CHANGE submitted examples of integrated and women-centered approaches from our recently published report, "[Reproductive Justice for All](#)," in addition to the global health NGO community's [recommendations](#). The overarching policy for GHI will be introduced in the New Year-we will keep you updated with news and analysis.

What's New

- **Press Release:** "[Center for Health and Gender Equity Welcomes PEPFAR's Five-year Strategy with Enthusiasm and Caution](#)." CHANGE, December 1, 2009.
 - **Article:** "[Change for Her Starts with Us](#)." Sippel, S. "Monday Developments," December 2009.
 - **Publication:** "[Unwanted Pregnancies and Abortion: Issues of Social Justice for Women Living with HIV](#)." CHANGE, FEIM, IAWC, Ipas, World AIDS Campaign, December 2009.
 - **Publication:** "[Adding it Up: The Costs and Benefits of Investing in Family Planning and Maternal and Newborn Health](#)." Guttmacher Institute and UNFPA, December 2009.
-

Support CHANGE

Please consider making a donation today - there are many ways to contribute! Federal employees can now contribute to CHANGE via the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) for 2009. Our CFC number is 62113.

You can also make a [contribution online](#). Any way you choose to contribute, your support strengthens our efforts to ensure U.S. international policies and programs promote the sexual and reproductive health and rights of women and girls worldwide.

The Center for Health and Gender Equity (CHANGE) is a U.S.-based non-governmental organization whose mission is to ensure that U.S. international policies and programs promote sexual and reproductive health and rights for women and girls worldwide.

Center for Health and Gender Equity (CHANGE)

1317 F Street, NW, Washington, D.C. USA

tel: 202-393-5930 fax: 202-393-5937

www.genderhealth.org www.pepfarwatch.org www.preventionnow.net

[Update your contact information](#) or [unsubscribe](#)